

1           1.     A workpiece holder for use in processing a workpiece comprising:  
2           a workpiece support;  
3           at least one finger assembly mounted upon said workpiece support; said at least one finger  
4           assembly including at least one contact for contacting the workpiece;  
5           at least one finger actuator operable with said at least one finger assembly for moving said  
6           finger assembly between an engaged position wherein said finger assembly is in contact with the  
7           workpiece and a disengaged position wherein said finger assembly is disengaged from the  
8           workpiece, said at least one finger actuator having means for moving the at least one finger  
9           assembly in an axial movement toward and from the workpiece along a longitudinal axis, and  
10          means to rotate the at least one finger assembly in a rotational movement about said longitudinal  
11          axis;

12          at least one electrode forming a part of said at least one finger assembly, said at least one  
13          electrode having an electrode contact for contacting a surface of said workpiece to provide  
14          electrical connection therewith, wherein said electrode contact is one of said at least one contact.

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16          2.     The workpiece holder of claim 1 wherein said at least one finger actuator moves  
17          said at least one finger assembly in a reciprocal manner.

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19          3.     The workpiece holder of claim 1 and further comprising at least one protective  
20          sheath covering at least a portion of the at least one finger assembly to protect the finger assembly  
21          from contact with a fluid.

1           4.     The workpiece holder of claim 1 and further comprising at least one protective  
2 sheath covering at least a portion of the at least one finger assembly to protect the finger assembly  
3 from contact with a plating fluid, said at least one protective sheath being made from a dielectric  
4 material.

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6           5.     The workpiece holder of claim 4 wherein said at least one protective sheath  
7 includes a rim portion for engaging said workpiece and forming a seal therebetween.

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9           6.     The workpiece holder of claim 4 wherein said electrode contact is maintained in a  
10 generally retracted position within said at least one protective sheath when said at least one finger  
11 assembly is in said disengaged position; said electrode contact being moved out of said retracted  
12 position when said at least one finger assembly is moved into said engaged position.

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14           7.     The workpiece holder of claim 4 wherein said at least one protective sheath  
15 includes a yieldable terminal end adjacent said electrode contact for engaging said workpiece and  
16 effectively sealing said electrode contact therewithin when said at least one finger assembly is  
17 moved to said engaged position; wherein said electrode contact is maintained in a generally  
18 retracted position within said at least one protective sheath when said at least one finger assembly  
19 is in said disengaged position; said electrode contact being moved out of said retracted position  
20 when said finger assembly is moved into said engaged position.